Sects. II-27—100,000—21-6-52.

Food & Agriculture (1949) Department.

Ms SERIES.

G.O. No. 1306

Dated 31-10-1949

[Despatch Abstract.]

Agriculture - Grow More Food -Compost form town refuse and night soil - Development Report of the Special Officer for compost investigation - Recommendations - Minutes of the Provincial Compost Development Committee - First meeting held on 15-6-1949 -Orders passed -

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
Abstract.

AGRICULTURE - Grow More Food - Compost from town refuse and nigh soil - Development - Report of the Special Officer for Compost Investigation - Recommendations - Minutes of the Provincial Compost Development Committee - First meeting held o 15/6/49 - Orders passed -

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT.

G.O.Ms.No.1306. Dated, the 31st October 1949.
Read the following:

G.O.Ms.No.	956	Development dated	5-3-1947.
"	2013	-do-	7-5-1947.
"	4044	-do-	12-8-1947.
"	4130	-do-	21-8-1947.
"	4793	-do-	9-10-1947.
"	3607	-do-	6-7-1949.
"	3833	-do-	18-7-1949.

Read also:

(i) Memorandum No.114480(a)-AIII/48-4 Development dated 19-2-1949.
(ii) From the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards, No.D.Dis.16149/49 dated 29-3-1949.
(iii) Memorandum No.114480(a)/AV/48-7 Development dated 19-4-1949.
(iv) From the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards, No.D.Dis.25922/49-8, dated 17-5-1948.
(v) From the Director of Agriculture, No.L.1271/49, dated 10-6-1949.
(vi) From the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, No.25663-49-CI, dated 14-6-1949.
(vii) From the Director of Public Health, No.41556-1N/49, dated 15-6-1949.
(viii) From the Joint Director of Agriculture, T.T.5-1450/49 dated 24-6-1949.
(ix) Memorandum No.40156-AV/49-10 Development dated 6.7.49
(x) From the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards, No.D.Dis.34628/49, dated 1-8-1949.

ORDER:

The Special Officer who was appointed by the Government in the Memorandum first read above, for investigation into the working of the various agencies connected with the production and distribution of compost, has submitted his report through the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards. The remarks of the Heads of Departments concerned, viz. Director of Agriculture, Registrar of Co-operative Societies and Director of Public Health, were obtained on the report with which was also placed for consideration before the Provincial Compost Development Committee at its meeting held on 15-6-'49. The Government have examined the report in the light of the remarks offered by the Heads of Departments and the decision of the Compost Development Committee, and they pass the following orders:--

(1) Para 1 of the report: Method of composting adopted.

The "Bangalore Process" of the manufacture of compost which has distinct advantages over other methods is described in this paragraph and the Special Officer has recommended that a uniform system of collection, preparation and storage should be developed for adoption in all Municipalities.

The Government accept this recommendation and direct that the Provincial Compost Development Officer should evolve a uniform system for adoption by Municipalities and Panchayat Boards all over the Province. The suggestion that suitable

masonary structures

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masonary structores may be put up to function as composting compartments in place of pits (dug in the soil) may be commended to the Municipalities and Panchayats for adoptedion wherever possible.

(2) Para 2 of the report: The quantitative and qualitative aspect of the work: The Special Officer considers that with the present intensive drive for compost production it will be possible to increase the quantity threefold and that the collection of raw refuse and nightsoil should be intensified, steps being taken to avoid wastages. The Compost Developmeny Officer should keep this in view when he visits the Municipalities and Panchayats Boards. With a view to increasing the quantity of Compost, the question was under consideration for sometime in the past, whether it should be made obligatory on all the Municipalities and notified areas that they should convert the whole of their refuse material into compost. The main difficulity that stands in the way of the full utilization of the compost manufactured in urban areas is want of adequate transport facilities and till easy means of trasport are provided it was pointed out that legislation for enforcing compulsory manufacture of compost might be deferred for the present. The Provincial Compost Development Committee which considered the question of compelling Municipalities to take up compost manufacture was also of opinion that there was no case for legislation at present as the response from most of the Municipalities was found to be good. The Committee however instructed the Provincial Compost Development Officer to contact such of the Municipalities where compost making has yet to be started, examine their difficulties and give facilities for starting compost making as far as possible. The Government accept the recommendation of the Committee. The Inspector of Municipal Council and Local Boards is requested to invite the attention of the Compost Development Officer and the Committee's instructions and impress on him the need for making rapid progress in achieving the targetted production of 1½ lakhs tons of compost during 1949-50 and also to contract the Municipalities which have not started compost manufacture to examine their difficulties and give facilities for starting compostmaking as far as possible.

As regards the improvement in the quality of compost recommended by the Special Officer in paragraph 2(b)(i) and (iii) of the report, the Compost Development Officer may examine this question whenever he visits each Municipality and Panchayat Board and given necessary instructions to the staff concerned regarding the proper method of composting the street sweepings with night soil. The Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards is also requested to ask the Compost Development Officer to consider specifically the suggestion of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies than an Officer unconnected with the Municipality must certify as to the quality of the stuff before it is taken over by the Cooperative Society for distribution and the suggestion of the Special Officer for the adoption of turn system for putting Sanitary Inspectors on compost duty and forward his views to Government.

(3) Para 3 of the report: The extent to which improvements can be affected in the increase of quantity and improvement in quality of compost:

With regard to the help to be rendered to the Municipalities and Panchayat Boards to acquire sites for composting, provision of shed and well, the Compost Development Officer should look into this matter during his visits and recommend individual cases for the consideration of Government. The Provincial Compost Development Committee which considered the acquisition of sites for compost manufacture in such of the Municipalities where there are no such facilities at

at present directed the Compost Development Officer to investigate and submit proposals. Last year the Government was considering a Bill called the "Madras Land Requisition and Acquisition Bill 1948" under which land could be requisitioned inter alia for compost making by Municipalities and Panchayat Boards, but as they however withdrew that Bill, there is at present no special provision for ordering the requisitioning of lands. The only alternative in the circumstances is to acquire the lands under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, taking recourse to the urgency provision in the Act if necessary. The Inspector of Local Boards is requested to inform the Compost Development Officer to investigate the submit proposals for acquiring sites in the manner recommended by the Compost Development Committee if the Municipalities wish that lands should be so acquired. The Government direct that the place of composting should be a little away from habitations as the compost might sometimes emit bad odour. The suggestion for the provision of shed and well on the compost sites is considered unnecessary in a large majority of cases. A few quick growing trees may be planted near the dumping grounds.

(4) Paras 4, 5 and 6 of the Report - Calculation of the Cost Price of compost - Reasons for its high price at which it may be sold to ryots - Recommendation of the Provincial Compost Development Committee that for a cart load of compost (½ ton or 25 C.Ft.) of compost the price of Rs.0-10-10 should be fixed at Municipal Depots:-

The reports of the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards is awaited. He suggested that the matter might be discussed at the next meeting of the Compost Development Committee. Orders will be issued separately.

(5) Paras 7 and 10 of the Report: Adequacy or otherwise of the present rate of subsidy given to ryots and facilities for transport of compost:

The main recommendation of the Special Officer is that the present rate of subsidy, viz. annas 12 per ton should be increased to Rs.1-4-0 and that the payment of subsidy may be restricted to the compost manure used for food crops by ryots who have carted the manure to villages beyond 2 miles from the Municipal Compost Depot. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies has recommended that it will be very difficult to ensure in actual practice whether the ryot comes from a village beyond 2 miles or if he applies the compost only for food crops, and that when the ryots within 2 miles find that they are not eligible for subsidy, the tendency will be to get the compost sold to another ryot living beyond 2 miles and buy it from him. This difficulty arises if the increased rate of subsidy is to be limited only to ryots who cart the manure to villages beyond 2 miles from the Municipality. The Government are however prepared to consider the question of granting the increased rate of subsidy to all ryots, with the aid of a subsidy from the Government of India. The Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards is therefore requested to instruct the Provincial Compost Development Officer to make out a proper case for addressing the Government of India to secure the higher rate of subsidy and the manner of its distriution.

The Provincial Compost Development Committee considered the difficulties experienced in the distribution of compost owing to lack of transport facilities. The Committee decided that a scheme should be drawn up for providing transport facilities for such centres where the facilities are lacking. The Government accept the decision of the Committee The Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards who has reported that he would submit a scheme after he has gained some experience is requested to expedite it.

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The Special Officer has also suggested that the concessional rate of Rs.25/- per day for lorries hired to Municipalities and Co-operative Sales Societies may be extended to individual cultivators who require the service of lorries for transporting compost instead of Rs.60/- per day charged at present for the agriculturists, and that the lorry may be allowed to be stationed for several days at a centre. The existing rate was fixed inG.O.No.4044 Development dated 12-8-47. The Joint Director of Agriculture also feels that the present rate of hire charges is very heavy for the poorer ryots who have to transport the manure from sale sheds and recommends that the concessional rate of Rs.25/- per day allowed to the Municipalities and Co-operative Societies may also be made applicable to the individual and group of ryots for the purpose of transporting compost manure.

The Government accept the recommendation of the Special Officer and the Joint Director of Agriculture and direct in modification of G.O.No.4044 Development dated 12-8-1947 that the concessional rate of Rs.25/- (Twentyfive) per day allowed to the Municipalities and Co-operative Societies in G.O.No.2013 Development dated 7/5/47 be charged to individual or group of ryots for purpose of transporting compost manure.

(6) Para 8 of the Report: Factors which have hampered quick disposal of compost - Measures that ~~th~~ are necessary to ensure better disposal:-

The factors which hampered quick disposal of compost are stated to be conduct of sales once a year, the high sale price fixed by Municipalities, the low quality of staff, sentimental objection and the difficulties of transport. The suggestions of the Special Officer to ensure better disposal are the sale of manure all through the year, adoption of the flat rate recommended by him, sifting the compost while handling by picking out glass pieces, brickbats etc., and facilities for transport of compost. The Director of Agriculture has recommended that the Compost Development Officer should be asked to go into this question during his visits and if there is any difficulty with regard to disposal of stuff, he can put up suggestions in consultation with the local Agricultural, Health and Municipal Officers.

The Registrar of Co-operative Societies and the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards are of the view that the distribution of compost may be done through the Co-operative Societies where they are willing to take up the work and that in places where they are not willing, compost may be sold direct to ryots. The Government accept the views of the Director of Agriculture, Registrar of Cooperative Societies and Inspector of Local Boards and direct that the Compost Development Officer should go into the questions mentioned by the Special Officer, during his visits to the Municipalities and Panchayat Boards and submit suggestion wherever necessary in consultation with the local Agricultural, Municipal and Health Officers. They also direct that compost be distributed through Cooperative Socities where they are willing to take up the work. The Government do not accept the recommendation of the Provincial Compost Development Committee that compost should not be auctioned by Municipalities if no Co-operative Society was prepared to undertake the work. They direct that as a rule Co-operative Societies should be entrusted with the distribution of compost and that in cases where the Societies are unwilling, the Municipalities may sell the same in auction if it is not possible to sell it to the ryots directly. Sale by auction will have to be resorted to only if the Co-operative Society is unwilling to purchase the stuff and if direct sale to ryots cannot be completed soon.

The compost should be made available to the ryots in time, i.e. just before the cultivation season commences. In this connection attention is invited to G.O.No.1170 Local Administration dated 9/7/49 containing instructions issued to the Kurnool Municipality.

The In connection with the expeditious disposal of stocks; the Provincial Compost Development Committee considered whether the sale of chemical fertilisers should be stopped incentres where compost was left unsold. The Committee decided that the sale of chemical manures should not be completely stopped but that it should be regulated so as to not to affect the sale of compost manure. The Government accept the decision of the Committee. The Director of Agriculture is requested to issue suitable instructions to the District Agricultural Officers to regulate the sale of chemical fertilisers so as not to affect the sale of compost manure.

(7) Para 9 of the report: Agency of distribution f and feasibility of reduction in its margin of profit:-

The Special Officer has pointed out erroneous calculation of sale price by the Co-operative Societies and the Societies have also exceeded the 12½% margin of profit allowed to them in G.O.No.4130 Development dated 21-8-1947. Fair rates have been worked out by him according to which the sale price by the Co-operatives will be Rs.13-14-9 per 10 tons and the sale price by the Municipalities and Panchayat Board will be Rs.13-12-0. He has recommended these rates for adoption, He obviously considers that no reduction in the existing margin of 12½% profit allowed to Co-operative Societies is necessary. The questionpf increasing the margin of profit to Co-operative Societies was already once considered and the Government ordered in G.O.Ms.3607 Development dated 6/7/48 that no increase be allowed in the existing margin of profit. The Inspector of Local Boards is requested to instruct the Compost Development Officer to enquire into this matter during his visits to Municipalities and Panchayat Boards and to furnish details in cases where the Co-operative Societies have exceeded the 12%-12½% limit, and the reasons therefor.

The Registrar of Co-operative Societies has remarked tha the period of 3 months adopted by the Special Officer as the season for distribution of compost, in working out the cost should be at least 6 months as the period for the sale of compost, and interest provided for 6 months. The Inspector of Local Boards is requested to ask the Compost Development Officer to take into consideration this aspect also in examining and furnishing the details as recommended by the Director of Agriculture.

(8) Para 11 of the Report: Financial assistance to Local Boards:-

The Special Officer has come to the conclusion that the manufacture of compost by the Local Bodies is not resulting inloss to them. However, he recommends grant of loans to Local Bodies for purposes like acquisition of sites, permanent masonary construction in the place of pits, or the improvement of the compost centre with sheds, wells etc. The Director of Agriculture has remarked that the Compost Development Officer will after arriving at the standard cost of manufacture and its sale price, be in a positionto indicate whether Municipalities or Panchayats are actually incurring any loss and if so the questionof increasing the subsidy as already indicated, may be considered. The Director of Public Health and Inspector agree with the Special Officer's recommendations. The Government direct that the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards should instruct the Compost Development Officer to take up urgentl the questionof working out the standard cost of manufacture

~~manufacture~~ immediately and to suggest the fair sale price and also report to Government whether the Local Bodies are actually incurring any loss.

As regards loans for Municipalities for incurring capital expenditure the Government of India were already addressed fof a grant of Rs.2,60,000(which is the estimated amount of loan required by 11 Municipalities and two Panchayat Boards) along with the question of impursement of the loss incurred by certain Municipalities in Compost manufacture. They have replied that a separate scheme may be sent in accordanc with the Government of India's principles for the grant of loans. The question is separately under consideration. When drawing up the new scheme the Provincial Compost Development Officer should include in the list other Municipalities and Panchayat Boards also which require loans for Capital purposes in connection with compost manufacture. The Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards is requested to instruct the Provincial Compost Development Officer to keep such a list ready for drawing up a Scheme.

(9) Para 12 of the Report: Operational Control of Compost Scheme and the Provincial Compost Development Officer:-

The Provincial Compost Development Committee decided that the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards should continue to be in charge of town compost and the Compost Development Officer should be attached to his office. The Government have already accepted this recommendation and issued orders in G.O.Ms.No.3833, Development dated 18/7/1949.

The Director of Agriculture has remarked that he should be empowered to compel the Municipalities and Panchayat Boards to take up compost manufacture. Since it is proposed to drop any legislation for the purpose of compelling ~~and~~ the Municipalities and Panchayat Boards to take up compost manufacture, the questionof empowering the Director of Agri cuture in this regard does not arise.

(10) Para 13 of the report: Modification of "Bangalore Process":-

The Special Officer has recommended that the present method of compost manufacture by "Bangalore Process" should be modified ao as to improve the quality of the manure. He has suggested that new methods may be ~~treated~~ tried on a small scale in selected centres under the guidance of the Compost Development Officer. The Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards is requested to ask the Provincial Compost Development Officer to report what modification to the "Bangalore Process" is called for.

(11) Recommendations of the Provincial Compost Development Committee on points not considered by the Report:

The following are also the recommendations of the Pro - vincial Compost Development Committee:-

(i) The suggestion of the Central Government Compost Development Officer to conduct random sample survey in villages in different agricultural zoens for determining manure production per head of cattle was discussed. It was decided that such an intensive survey was not necessary;

(ii) The Scheme for utilisationof Madras City Sewage for increasing agricultural production was not taken up for consideration by the Committee, as this matter is being dealt with by a separate Committee; and

contd:-

(iii) The proposal of the Central Government Compost Development Officer to have an intensive programme of tree planting for fuel on large scale was discussed. It was decided that since the Provincial Governments are already conducting a "Tree Planting Week" programme, commencing from 15th August every year, no further action was necessary.

Item (i) above: Orders will be issued separately.

Item (ii) and (iii) above: No action on these items is necessary.

(12) General: The Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards is requested to submit a report as soon as possible on the action taken on the orders in the preceeding paragraphs.

(By Order of His Excellency the Governor of Madras)

M.A. KUTTALALINGAM PILLAI,
Secretary to Government.

To
The Director of Agriculture, Madras.
The Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Madras.
The Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards.
The Director of Public Health.
The Accountant-General through Finance.
Copy to the Local Administration Deptt.
" Education and Public Health Deptt.
" Finance (P.W.R.) Department.
Copy to the Secretary to Provincial Compost Development Committee. (Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards Office.)

/True copy/

Superintendent,
Madras Record Office.

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